ABSTRACT

A method and system for obtaining information about electronic components, managing that information, and/or purchasing and procuring electronic components comprises a remote parts database connected to a distributed electronic network, such as the Internet. The remote parts database stores a plurality of dynamic parts for use in a schematic program run on a user workstation. When the user connects to the remote parts database, a listing of available dynamic parts are displayed on the user's workstation. The user selects dynamic parts for inclusion into an application (such as a schematic program) running on the user's workstation. The dynamic parts are downloaded to the user workstation and a local database. The downloaded information includes data regarding the parts functionality plus component data items such as supplier or distributor information, timing information, application notes, and a link (e.g., URL) to either the remote parts database or a remote supplier or manufacturer database. As dynamic parts are selected for use in a design, their information may be forwarded to a parts approval process for qualification with the designer's organization. From a design in the schematic program having multiple dynamic parts, a bill of materials may be automatically generated based on the locally stored component data items, including the supplier/distributor information.